

My comments in response are as follows:

- I am grateful to everyone for taking the time to consider this important issue;
- I have been overwhelmed by the local response. Everyone I have spoken to has unanimously agreed that the junction, which services approximately 200 homes, is dangerous;
- I personally have to travel in that direction up to 3 times a day to my children's school/ nursery. For me the issue is simple, I cannot see enough to my right to know that it is safe to pull out and I am not prepared to risk my children's safety. I therefore travel out of my way to actively avoid the junction and I know others do the same;
- Traffic calming measures, whilst welcomed by local residents, would not improve visibility to the right for the driver exiting the junction. Under Rule 170 of the Highway Code it is the responsibility of the driver joining the main road to "look all around before emerging" and to "make sure there is a gap large enough... to do so safely". It is impossible at present to discharge that duty;
- For this junction to meet current junction design requirements, I understand that it would need a visibility splay from a point 2.4 metres back from the edge of Portsmouth Road, of 30-40 meters in both directions. From the current junction the visibility to the south from 2.4 metres back is virtually nil;
- The speed of traffic travelling into Guildford is a wider issue that needs to be addressed. A VAS on Portsmouth Road would no doubt improve overall road safety, but even at the legal limit of 30mph, visibility is too restricted to enable a safe exit from the junction. To what extent has the Traffic Engineer considered alterations to the current road layout, including the use of the grass verge to the nearside of the vehicle exiting the junction? Having the ability to position one's car even slightly further to the left could make a substantial difference;
- It would not seem unreasonable for the VAS or other traffic calming measures to be funded from Section 106 contributions from one of the new developments in this area which will add further traffic and exacerbate the safety problem at the junction;
- I note that there is no recent record of personal injury, but is it local government policy to only act in event of a fatality/ serious injury when the junction so clearly presents a danger to traffic and to public safety? There have already been multiple near misses/ small collisions. If remedial action is not taken, there is a substantial risk of a more serious accident.

16 March 2021

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